# From the Editor

THIS month we showcase the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. From humble beginnings during the Revolution as a series of hastily-built fortifications on the Hudson River to one of the world's premier academic institutions, West Point has transformed young Americans into some of our country's greatest leaders.

Among the names listed in West Point's Register of Graduates from the class of 1945 is a Harold Gregory Moore Jr. A little more than 20 years later, Moore would find himself in Vietnam's la Drang Valley as a battalion commander surrounded and outnumbered in the war's first major confrontation with North Vietnamese Army regu-

lars.

The film "We Were Soldiers" — based on the 1992 book about the battle by Moore and reporter Joseph Galloway — tells the heroic story of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. Senior Editor Heike Hasenauer gives us a behind-the-scenes look at the film, complete with exclusive interviews with Moore and Galloway.

On a personal note, we wish Heike a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

John & Suttle

#### **Not Reservists**

THE 2002 Almanac is quite impressive and very informative. However, there is one error I would like to point out. The caption for photo 6 on page 41 says the engineers building an addition to a MOUT site at Hohenfels, Germany, are Army Reservists. They are actually members of the elite 225th Engineer Group of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Thanks for a great magazine and keep up the good work. LTC David Aycock via e-mail

## Weather, Or Not?

I WAS glad to see the November article "Army Transforming America — Doing Something About the Weather" give credit to a long history of weather support in the Army. It is a very interesting article, though I want to bring to your attention another MOS, which is very much alive and has a very historic past.

Field artillery meteorological crewmembers (MOS 93F) are a very important part of the Army today, as they have been in the past. This is the only field in the Army that still produces Upper Wind Data with a balloonborne radiosonde for use by field artillery units, the Air Force and, in some cases, the National Weather Services

SFC Jose S. Bernier via e-mail

# Legal Approval

I AM a member of the LAAWS Project Office and want to commend you on the great poster on page 24 of the November issue describing our website and how we provide legal services throughout the Army.

Also I was wondering if possible to get about 10 extra copies mailed to the address on

#### **Black Hawk Down**

IN your February "Black Hawk Down" article you said that actor William Fitcherp lays a "tictional character — MSG Paul Howe." In fact, Howe was a real person. According to the story (which I have read three times) Howe was a sergeant first class at the time and led the Delta Force

class at the time and led the Delta Force team that stormed the target house. Fitchner plays a character called "SFC Jeff Sanderson." I can only assume he is depicting Howe's actions.

1LT Carlos Bennett via e-mail

## Muslim Headgear

IN the February issue you ran a picture showing chaplain CPT Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad wearing an Army-green kufi, the Muslim skullcap. My question is this: are soldiers authorized to wear kufis while in uniform? I and other Muslims in my unit are very interested in the answer.

SSG Williams

IN our photo, Chaplain Muhammad was wearing his kufi in the course of his religious duties. As for wear of the kufi by soldiers not involved in religious services, MSG K.L. Messman, HQDA Uniform Policy proponent, replies:

"Outside of worship services, soldiers may wear religious apparel if the following conditions are met: it must be discreet, not affixed to the uniform, able to be concealed by the Army uniform, and it may not interfere with the soldier's performance of duties or the wear of the Army uniform.

"Some religious headgear is small enough that it can be covered by the standard Army headgear. If that is the case, it is authorized for wear as long as it is a subdued color, such as black, brown, dark blue or green.

the poster to pass out among our staff.

WO1 Robert Babinski via e-mail

Thanks for the kind words on the poster, and your extra copies are in the mail.

# **Purple Heart or DOF?**

IN the November "Briefings" section you mentioned the new

Defense of Freedom medal, awarded to "civilian employees injured or killed in the line of duty." I thought the Purple Heart already covered this.

According to the Military District of Washington website, "President John F. Kennedy extended eligibility [for the Purple Heart] April 25, 1962, to 'any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority

in any capacity with an armed force... had been, or may here after be, wounded." It goes on to say that "President Ronald Reagan amended President Kennedy's order to include those killed or wounded as a result of an international terrorist attack" in February 1984."

Have we created a medal we really don't need?

Name withheld by request

## Serving the Fallen

IN your October article "America Under Attack" you stated that the Air Force's Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs handled the remains of military and civilian personnel killed in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

This is only partly true. The Carson Center did help in the identification and the arrangement of the funerals. However, before the remains left the Pen-

tagon, they were first handled by the mortuary affairs soldiers of the 54th Quartermaster Company. The 54th was mobilized the day of the attack. The first teams left that night for Washington, D.C.

By the end of the first week, every deployable soldier of the 54th QM Co. was either deployed elsewhere or at the Penagon. Those teams that arrived first began pulling 12-hour shifts, and then later slowed to 8 hours.

During our time at the Pentagon the members of the 54th not only went inside the building for search and recovery, they also cataloged personal effects; aided the FBI in the search for possible evidence in the rubble piles at the north parking lot; and helped transport the remains to Fort Belvoir and on to Dover Air Force Base

Working alongside us through this hard time was our

sister unit, the 311th QM Co. out of Puerto Rico.

The main reason for my writing to you is to recognize all those soldiers who either worked with the main body at the Pentagon, or served at places like Fort Belvoir, or Dover AFR

For many of the 54th soldiers, this was their first realworld mission. Being exposed to something such as this for the first time, the soldiers of the 54th handled themselves marvelously well.

PFC Christopher L. Fholer Fort Lee, Va.

Thanks for your input. As it happens, we have a feature article on the 54th awaiting publication in an upcoming issue.

## **Uniform as Symbol**

WHILE I appreciate SSG Ryan Tozier's November letter about the ways soldiers might show patriotic support for the nation, Ido not think another adornment to the uniform is necessary.

The uniform itself is the mostobvious symbol of support, its leadership and our fallen. U.S. military uniforms are recognized worldwide, and the special men and women wearing the uniforms of our armed forces daily uphold this great nation's values and beliefs both here and abroad.

It should not take a special ribbon or pin to state what is already obvious.

SFC Lauren E. Orrok (Ret.)
Phenix Citv. Ala.

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your larms ell you desire and may condense your views because of space. We'll withhold your larms ell you desire and may condense your views because of space. Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-581. or e-mail: soddiers@belvoir.umm.will.

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